



FORESTRY NEWS



Can you spell AFMO?



Cathleen Lowe joined the leadership team at Fire Management last month as the



new Assistant Fire Management Officer (AFMO). This job follows an extensive fire career encompassing many different aspects of fire.

Cathleen began as a seasonal on the Sequoia National Forest in California and spent eight seasons there first with the Horseshoe Meadows Hotshot crew and then on a Hume Lake engine. She then became a smokejumper with the Redding jumpers. It was then that she decided to finish an education started years before at Mesa Community College so Cathleen headed to Fort Lewis College in Colorado and earned a degree in General Biology with a minor in Chemistry. She continued smoke jumping during the summers. After college Cathleen accepted a job as the Crew Lead with the Coronado

National Forest Fuels Crew. Adventure called and Cathleen took a 6 month detail to Arkansas with the NPS to join the Buffalo River Fire Use Module. This module rotated through park units in the region doing prescribed fire projects. Following the detail, Cathleen finished the year as overhead with the Flagstaff Hotshots. Continuing on the move, Cathleen took an Inter-agency Fuels Specialist with the BLM and Carson NF in New Mexico. The Hotshot life wasn't out of her blood, however, and she spent 5 seasons as the Silver City Hotshot Superintendent followed by 3 seasons as the Mt. Taylor Hotshot Superintendent. All totaled, Cathleen served for 13 seasons as a hotshot, 8 of those as the crew superintendent; 6 seasons in fuels; 3 seasons smoke jumping and 5 seasons on engines. Emblems shown around this page document some of that history.



Finally it was time for some administrative jobs so Cathleen took an AFMO position in Mountainair, New Mexico. This was quickly followed by the FMO position at the BIA Southern Pueblos Agency in Albuquerque, New Mexico.



Cathleen is a qualified Division Supervisor and a Type 2 Burn Boss. She is also a trainee Type 3 Incident Commander.

Cathleen says that her grandmother was the most influential person in her life. Several moves, in fact, were to move closer to this important person in her life.



Cathleen is Diné on her mother's side and her mother is Ta'neeshahnii born for Ma'ii deeshgiizhinii.



Cathleen Lowe in a swamp buggy in Alaska in 2015

MARCH FIRE CLASSES

- March 21-23 S-212 Wildland Power Saws
- March 24 S-131 Advanced Firefighter Type 1
- March 25 FI-110 Fire Investigation
- March 25 S-133 Look up, Down, Around
- March 28-30 L-280 Followership to Leadership
- Mar 31-Apr 1 S-270 Basic Air Operations

** All classes will be held at the Rick Lupe Fire Center*

ANNUAL FIREFIGHTER SAFETY REVIEW

Firefighters be sure and attend the required annual safety refresher at Hon Dah if you intend on fighting fires this year. March 8th has been set aside for regular government and tribal employees while March 9th is reserved for SWFF crews. Contact Varnell Gatewood at 338-5481 for more information.

